



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

65 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2014

Volume 65 Number 4

www.phil-mont.org

April 2014

*The Regular Club Meeting Will be on Wednesday the 9th in the
Roxborough Hospital Cafeteria at 7:30*

It's April!

Easter

Passover

Spring Showers

And a chance to survey the antenna situation from the long winter!

Plans to have Joe Taylor speak have been finalized *page 6*

Big welcome to our new members —

Stefan KB3VLY, Al AB3CE, Barbara KB3FXG,
Bob KB3SFY, Woody K3YV, and Sharon K3SG

PMRC featured member of the month is Barry, K3EUI *page 7*

A sad farewell to Leon,

K3CHR's longtime Feline companion *page 7*

April Fool's day has been changed to the 15th

By Act of Congress *page 15*

<p><i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs.</p> <p>Requests should be sent to the Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis ND3B nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225</p> <p>Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer.</p> <p>Labels and mailing: KB3IV</p> <p>Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.</p>		<p>Directors:</p> <p>WA3KIO(14) WU3I (14) KB3SJS(14) N3QV(15) ND3B(15) W3RM(15) KB2ERL(A)</p>		<p>Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 284 Springhouse, PA 19477 http://www.phil-mont.org Website: Eric N3QV & Andrew KC2PMW</p> <p>For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV</p>			
		<p>Sunday Morning Net Schedules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater• 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)• 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB• ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater					
<p>Committees</p> <p>Blurb folding: KB3IV & N3GLU Directory: KB3IV Field Day: KC2PMW</p>		<p>Internet: N3QV & KC2PMW Membership: KB3SJT Net Control: KB3IV</p>		<p>Program: Club VP Publicity: W3RM Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK</p>		<p>Scholarship: W3RM Sunshine: N3GLU VE Program: NS3K Welcome: N3UBY Youth: KC2PMW</p>	

All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org.

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz
Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV

The Officers

Pres: KA3IRJ Fred Uebelhoer Jr. fred@ksecorp.com
Vice Pres: W3STW Al Tribble wstw@juno.com
Sec: WA3DSP Doug Crompton doug@crompton.com
Treas: NS3K Jim McCloskey jmccloskey@msn.com

The Prez Sez ...



I was dreaming about climbing [a tall freestanding tower](#) perched high on an island overlooking the ocean somewhere in the South Pacific. A beautiful Force 12 beam was glinting in the warm sunshine, and I was almost at the top when suddenly... KER-WHAM! A loud noise roused me from that blissful reverie.

Thinking it was a frontal assault I leapt out of bed and grabbed [the bore](#), but then I heard the wind.

That was my first clue - it was howling. From this intelligence I quickly surmised the previous clatter was not an invasion of Zombies bent on eating my liver, nor the hoof beats of the Horses of the Apocalypse, but rather the sound of my [160M dipole](#) ricocheting off the side of the house. Again.

My eyes instinctively swung to the weather station. Outside temperature 16 degrees - winds out of the NNW at 25-30 mph, gusting to almost 40. In late March this is not a good sign. Some lamb! It was in that moment that I officially declared that I was sick of winter.

Less than anxious to enjoy yet another hand numbing experience, Ms. Penny, wide awake now guessed from the look on my face what was wrong.....

"Antenna down?"

"Yep, I guess that repair was more temporary than I thought," I said sheepishly.

"Apparently. Now put that ridiculous shotgun away and come back to bed."

"Yes Dear."

But the following day the antenna Gods smiled upon us. The late afternoon sun raised the temperature to almost 60 degrees! Winds were calm, the birds were chirping, and life was full! In no time we had a properly repaired dipole back up

in the air and I started thinking about [Field Day, Dayton](#), and that sometimes, things all just work out right.

Things are beginning to work out for Phil-Mont too. Since my last Column our Club has (6) new members! One of them, Stefan (KB3VLY) is already very active jumping into his new role as Co-Chair of our new Youth Program, along with Eric (N3QV). Entitled "PRYME," for the "Phil-Mont Radio Youth Mentoring Experiment," the group's mission is to "prime" the students for possible careers in Technical fields, and to foster the [Builder/Maker/Experimenter](#) spirit. If all goes well, we will be establishing a Ham Radio Club at a very prestigious Main Line school, and working with their existing [Robotics](#) group.

The promised program featuring Nobel Prize winning speaker [Dr. Joe Taylor \(K1JT\)](#) is also all set. Please mark your calendars for Saturday September 20th and register to attend. Just send an email or a note to Barry (K3EUI) at k3eui@aol.com to get your free tickets. The presentation will be held at 10AM in the West Chester [Government Building](#) on Westtown Rd. in West Chester, PA, in conjunction with the Chester County ARES/RACES Group. Bring your laptop for a live [digital communication](#) demonstration! Details to follow - stay tuned! Be well and we'll see you on the Airwaves! 73, Fred [KA3IRJ](#)

73 de Fred, KA3IRJ

"Ridiculous shotgun"...



Like this?



***The VE test session is Thursday evening
the 24th this month.***

*One candidate passed the Tech test, and almost the
General test, at the Saturday session on the 15th.*

As always, many thanks to our VE team!

Phil-Mont Birthdays & Tidbytes

APRIL Birthdays

05 Rob Moore – N2RM

06 Andrew Furlong KC2PMW

08 Jackie Chedeville (XYL W3GQD)

13 Michaela Uebelhoer KB3UFY

15 Mai-Lin (XYL N3BKR)

20 Harrison W. Gift-K3HWG

21 Michael Vincent N3TOX

22 Susan Hoch (XYL W3UI)

28 Gwen Patton - NG3P

30 Al Kaufmann - K3ZMJ

MEMBERSHIP STATS

At press time P.M.R.C. had:

84 FULL PAID MEMBERS

10 FAMILY MEMBERS

2 YOUTH MEMBERS

1 HONORARY MEMBER

From the Secretary...

PMRC Board Meeting, March 5, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 PM by club president Fred, KA3IRJ.

Members present – WU3I, WB2ERL, ND3B, N3QV, WA3KIO, WB3SJS, W3STW, KA3IRJ, K3GBA, NS3K, KB3IV, and WA3DSP.

Ed, KB3IV gave the net control report. N3OWM has resigned as net control and Ed will be looking for a replacement and additional net controls at the general meeting. Net control preamble will be changed to reflect the new meeting location.

Al, W3STW discussed the March meeting topic. He will show a 15-20 minute DVD about Lionel trains. Al is looking for future meeting speakers.

There was a discussion about Internet access and RF (antenna) access in the hospital cafeteria.

Ed, KB3IV stated that as of the meeting date there were 23 opt outs for hard copy Blurb mailings. He will mail out the new club directory and send as PDF to opt-out's.

There was a discussion about a complete web page update which Eric, N3QV will be authoring. Also discussed updates needed on the current web page.

KB2ERL will obtain a SCARA pamphlet as an example for creation of a PMRC club pamphlet. This will be used as a handout at club events to introduce the club to new and potential members.

There was a discussion about putting past Blurbs on the web page and it was decided they would go on the web minus the latest issue. WA3DSP will be scanning older Blurbs for the web and existing digitally stored blurbs will go on ASAP.

Fred suggested that a PMRC member should be featured each month on the website and also the Blurb. No personal information would be listed and the individual would be asked for permission.

Stefan, KB3VLY has expressed an interest in starting a club at the Haverford School. There was discussion about starting a committee headed by Eric, N3QV to introduce amateur radio to potential new hams.

The new treasurer Jim, NS3K reported that he has met with former treasurer Dick, W3RM and all information and signature authorization has been passed to him. It was voted that the PO BOX will be changed to one closer to Jim's QTH. Once established changes will be made to all locations where PMRC's address is now displayed.

Doug, WA3DSP repaired the Bucks offsite. It had drifted off frequency possibly due to a poor connection in the crystal unit socket. The cooling fan which had stopped working was also replaced.

There was a discussion about the new Yaesu digital/analog repeater and the possibility of updating the club repeater. Fred will compose a letter to Yaesu asking for a possible corporate donation for their product in the Philadelphia area.

There was a discussion to extend the digital net on Tuesday nights to two hours. A motion was made and all were in favor.

There was a discussion about the Joe Taylor talk sponsored by PMRC. Possible dates, locations and compensation need to be decided. There will be more discussion on this at the next meeting.

There was a discussion about moving the 80 meter net to 40 meters. A trial will be conducted. The frequency of the 10 meter net was discussed. There is often interference on the 10 meter net frequency.

It was decided to not change the frequency at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.

PMRC General Meeting, March 12, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM in the Roxborough Hospital cafeteria.

Treasurers report – treasury is fine.

Due to weather conditions there were only 11 members, 1 ham visitor, and 2 visitors present. New member Stefan, KB3VLY was introduced. New members Al, AB3CE and Barb, KB3FXG Yessel were announced. Vistor Matt Lotkowski was introduced. He is ready to take his license test and will do so at the next VE session.

VE Session Saturday March 15 and 27.

WA3DSP gave an update on Bucks offsite repair. It is working well.

Talked about meeting room. It will be main topic at the next mid-month meeting.

Fred brought up the possibility of a PMRC social event later in the year.

A DVD was shown and enjoyed by all about the space shuttle contact from the Franklin Institute in 1991. An elementary school class spoke directly with astronauts on the shuttle. It was sponsored by PMRC.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

de Doug, WA3DSP

Joe Taylor, K1JT Will Speak to Members

Ladies & Gentlemen:

I am pleased to announce that our talk with (K1JT) is now a done deal with all parties agreed and signed.

The Hosts: The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club and Chester County ARES/RACES

Who: Nobel Prize Winner Dr. Joe Taylor (K1JT) of Princeton University

When: Saturday September 20, 2014 @ 1000 local

Where: Cafeteria in the Chester County Government Building, 601 Westtown Rd. West Chester, PA.

What: A Talk on Digital Modes - Including a Live Demonstration - Bring Your Laptops

There is limited seating, and therefore the event will be invitation only with an RSVP necessary to Barry (K3EUI) or myself by August 15, 2014.

Notification to the membership will commence via email immediately and be broadcast in the Sunday's Nets, and will continue until August 15th when the event will be opened to other ARES/RACES groups, and perhaps a few other Clubs. The next "Phil-Mont Minute" will also detail the event.

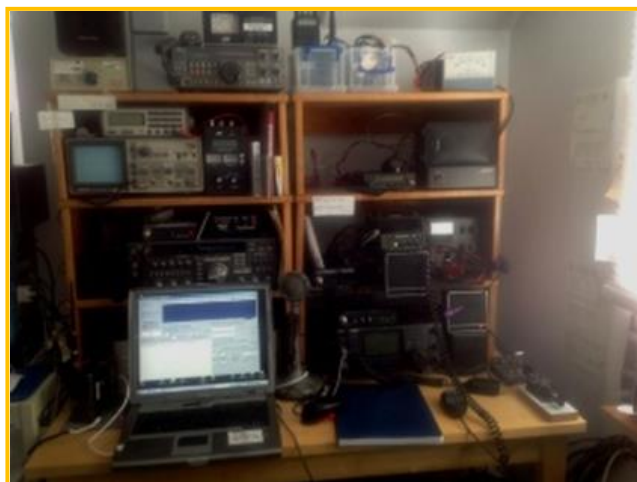
Tickets will be sent to all attendees, limit (2) per Member, and must be presented for entry into the event.

This is a Government facility with a Security Checkpoint - No Weapons Allowed in the Building. Instructions on how/where to download the appropriate software will be distributed to those interested in copying digital signals using the audio mode.

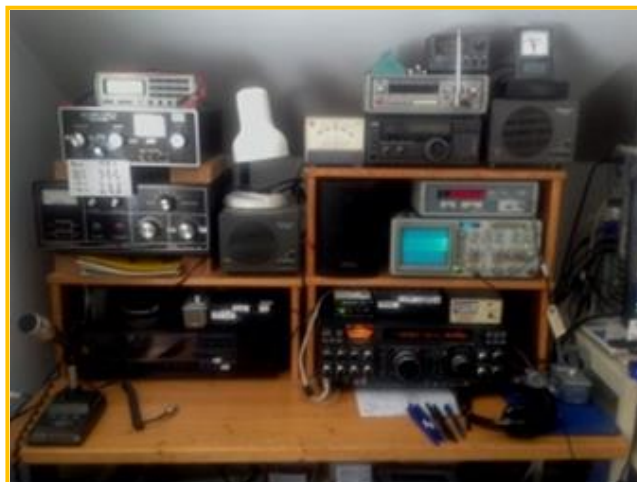
There is ample parking, the site is easy to get to just off Rt. 202, and Carpooling will be coordinated to allow all members who wish to attend to do so. We are really excited to host this world class speaker and hope you are too!

PMRC Shack of the Month: Barry, K3EUI

Barry is heavily into the digital modes including JT65, psk31, SSTV, and others, and he also likes antenna experimentation and working with the Chester County RACES group. He always has a good clean signal on HF. Along with Al, W3STW he runs the Tuesday night Digital net on the club repeater. It is mainly due to his efforts that we will be hearing Joe Taylor speak this Fall.



1) VHF / UHF voice and digital radios with Rigblaster interface
Prime radios are Yaesu FT736 all mode and Mirage amplifier and Icom 746 Pro HF/VHF trying to learn how to use JT65HF (on laptop screen)



2) Prime HF digital station Yaesu FT 1000 with Signalink and Clipperton HF amp and manual MFJ tuner



3) The old standby radios: Kenwood TS850, TS50, and Icom 725 with a smaller Ameritron 800 watt linear amp and manual antenna tuner

HF antenna junctions: 6HF antennas – Two 80/40/30M dipoles, homemade 20M and 40M 1/4wave verticals, all pand R5vertical, 10M 5/8vertical

The VHF/UHF antenna junction box: four rigs, four antennas



Grandson troubleshooting broken HF rig.

This Tip From Bob, W3NE for you Operating System Lovers

A free on-line introduction to Linux will be available this summer to those who want to simply monitor it or take examinations and receive a certificate of completion. In either case, it is an opportunity to receive a thorough understanding of this versatile operating system.

<http://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2014/03/2400-introduction-to-linux-course-will-be-free-and-online-this-summer/>

Perhaps this unique opportunity will be worth publicity in the Blurb with encouragement for PMRC members to participate. **Bob – W3NE**



Leon the Cat (SK)

It is with extreme sadness I pass along the news of K3CHR's son "Leon" passing. He was a wonderful companion to Jack and his late wife for many years. I had the pleasure of meeting and being greeted by Leon many times while visiting Jack. Now Leon will be keeping his "Mom" company as he had for so many years.

Jack, we all send our prayers to you at this time of loss. Leon will remain fondly in our memory.

Ed, KB3IV

TECHNIGRAM

The Commodore Pi

We live in a wonderful world where small computers and micro controllers are common. A simple micro controller can be purchased locally and be used to control and program with limitless possibilities. Computers of today are getting smaller and smaller increasing their uses. Smart phones are containing the same amount of computing power as our desktops from 8 years ago. A popular hobbyist computer is the Raspberry Pi. The Raspberry Pi by Element 14 features a HDMI output, 10 programmable GPIO pins, on board Ethernet, and 2 USB ports for \$35. It has been used for many ham radio related projects such as a DSTAR hotspots and repeater control. It's hard to settle on one use for the Raspberry Pi because it can accomplish so much.

Why not use a Raspberry Pi to replace the CPU of a 30 year old Commodore 64? A small portable Commodore Pi would be great for dedicated radio use. It can be used as a logbook, radio programmer, DSTAR hotspot, satellite tracker etc... I will also be giving a new life to my beloved Commodore 64.



I wanted to utilize the keyboard and the joystick inputs on the Commodore. A quick internet search led me to the Keyrah V2, an interface board that will turn a Commodore 64 keyboard into a USB keyboard. After gutting the Commodore of its innards, I secured the Raspberry Pi to the enclosure with mounting tape. I began laying out a 4 port USB hub and HDMI coupler to utilize the open ports slots from the old PCB board. I added a power on toggle switch and a DC adapter barrel connector. I made a wiring harness to power both the Pi and the USB hub. A very simple build turned out to be extremely fun and rewarding.



If you ever decide on using a Raspberry Pi for a radio related project, have some fun with its enclosure. The possibilities are endless. If there are any questions about my build feel free to email me at <mailto:stefan@didizian.com>

73, Stefan KB3VLY

Links:

Raspberry Pi - <http://www.element14.com/community/community/raspberry-pi?ICID=hp-raspberrypi-topgroups>

Keyrah v2 - http://www.vesalia.de/e_keyrahv2.html

April at Phil-Mont

6th Sun N3OWM NCS
 9th Wed General Meeting
 13th Sun NC3U NCS
 14th Mon Passover Begins at Sundown
 15th Tues Income Tax Day
 20th Sun KB3IV NCS
 Easter
 24th Thurs VE session
 27th Sun K3XS NCS

Don't forget the ARES net on Sunday nights and the Digital net on Tuesday nights.

Also of interest...

April is National Humor Day

1st April fool's day
 3rd Doris Day Birthday
 4th Thadeus Stevens Birthday
 5th Booker T. Washington Birthday
 10th Omar Shariff Birthday
 14th Titanic Struck an iceberg shortly before midnight on April 14 causing it to sink at 2:20 AM on April 15th, 1912
 15th Artist/Inventor Leonardo Da Vinci born, 1452
 19th Revolutionary War began (1775)
 24th Take Your Daughter to Work Day
 25th World Penguin Day

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
 1700 Street Rd. Apt. H3, Warrington PA, 18976

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